

continue that medical coverage for pregnant women.

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to speak to the committee amendments. I recognize the problem which faces the committee on Public Health and Welfare and I recognize their attempt to deal with the problem of the pregnant mother and I do not find any serious fault with that portion of the amendment. My objection to the amendment as it stands today, and I will not ask to amend the committee amendment until the bill comes on Select File because I want to visit with Senator Cullan and members of the committee and members of the Omaha delegation who have a deep interest in this proposal so that we do not have any problem and do not cause any additional problems for Douglas County. As you know, since 1975 I have written and rewritten the laws on child support many times. I have placed upon your desk a variety of material that will tell you some of the facts relative to the issue as it stands now. I guess one of the things that bothers me more deeply than anything else is the lack of our ability as legislators to secure the necessary, the accurate and the complete information as it pertains to child support. We are being told now that unless first of all, we pass this bill, that the state will lose certain ADC funds because the federal government passed a bill which said that first of all there was going to be a 10% collection fee charged to the custodial parent. If we don't provide for that we are in trouble with the feds. Well let me tell you this. As I told the members of the committee yesterday the federal government is embarrassed with that bill and if you will read the material I have given you you will know why. They now propose to amend that bill as soon as they possibly can to shift the 10% collection fee of the custodial parent to a 6% fee on the, pardon me, from a 10% of the noncustodial to a 6% fee of the custodial parent. Now as the Chief Justice pointed out yesterday the people they expect to assess this fee against are not paying anyway. So if I owe \$10,000 child support what do I care if they charge me another 10%? I haven't paid the first \$10,000. Senator Higgins has pointed out that the figures that show that Douglas County is \$90 million in arrearages on the collection of child support go way back until 1957 whereas the Lancaster County figures would show arrearages only go back to 1975. Now again, it should not be the responsibility of the Legislature to be assured that each and every single county uses